

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, Connecticut.

1. Roll Call

Council Members

Dr. Stewart Beckett III, Chairman
Mr. Whit C. Osgood, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Jill Barry
Ms. Karen Boisvert *{excused}*
Mr. Lawrence J. Byar
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh
Mr. William T. Finn
Mr. Thomas P. Gullotta
Mrs. Cara T. Keefe

(a) Pledge of Allegiance.

Led by Chairman Beckett

2. Public Comment.

Mrs. Barry said that she and Mr. Gullotta had volunteered their time for the Connecticut River Book Auction and having been inspired by Sandy Sergio, wanted to donate \$500 to the Glastonbury Poet Laureate.

Mrs. Jill Grieveson of 3 Tryon Farm Road said that she and Chris Gullotta founded T.A.L.K. for civil dialogue saying that political discourse has gotten so polarized that nothing can be discussed without being branded and name calling. She also invited all to the candidate's forum to be held 7pm, Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at the Congregational Church in South Glastonbury where there would be 2 moderators posing questions to the candidates about local topics.

Ms. Audrey Smith of 53 Belle Woods Drive listed large capital projects in town such as the Riverfront, Nayaug, GHS, boathouse and magnet school and after attending kindergarten orientation in sweltering heat, she became an advocate for school air conditioning. She said it was not a want but a need with buildings being turned into ovens without it. She said that animal kennels and economy cars have a/c to demonstrate it is a necessity. She noted that saying that

they could wait for a/c was no appropriate as they have waited at least a decade. She questioned what they were waiting for.

Dr. Alan Bookman, Superintendent, said that they are mindful of the stressful budget situation and have done many things to save money including modest work on the Gideon Welles septic and Eastbury water heater to avoid larger budget projects previously anticipated. He spoke to the plan to use Eastbury for the weight room saving \$800,000 and the delay of Eastbury boiler work until 2026. He said they would be back for a special revenue fund for their LINKS program. He said much has been delayed or eliminated and they will look closely at their roofs but are asking \$1.6M for air conditioning. He emphasized they need to move this project forward as the lack of cooling in the rooms is their biggest impediment to learning with much time lost. He noted that they can't leave doors and windows open like they once could.

Mrs. Susan Karp of 32 Rampart Drive, thanked the public at this meeting and those in the past. She thanked Mrs. Barry and Mr. Gullotta for their impassioned pleas and the entire Council for getting this on the agenda tonight. She said that Dr. Bookman has demonstrated the savings found in the CIP. She noted that this is the 26th day of school with heat and/or humidity creating oppressive conditions in their schools without air conditioning representing 14% of the school year and they still have spring to face. She asked for their vocal support for the air conditioning project at \$1.6M for a healthy environment for students and staff. She said the Board of Education is willing to work with the Council and asked that the rhetoric be put aside and let the taxpayers know the education budget is best used in every classroom every day.

Ms. Denise Weeks of 334 Hollister Way West advocated for air conditioning criticizing a remark that it is expensive and only used for part of the year when they spend money to seed and for sprinklers that are only used for part of the year. She reiterated that they can't open windows and doors post Sandy Hook, that it has been studied to death and the time to move is now.

Ms. Deb Carroll of 17 Green Briar criticized the Council for their lack of action over the last month while kids continue to go home sick. She said that she suspected that the Council planned to send the issue to the Board of Finance knowing it would not be supported. She thanked them for their part in the town being financially healthy but asked them to move this forward.

Mr. Jim Zeller of 210 Woodland Street noted that he served on the Board of Finance and the Board of Education for the 12 years before that. He continued saying that he heard the criticism of the Council for delay but the whole problem does not rest with the Council. He stated that the state financial situation looms and that as recent as 2015, the Board of Education made the intercom system their top priority, not air conditioning. He continued saying that the Board of Education failed to get a study to move it forward then rejected an option to dehumidify the

schools opting for full air conditioning or nothing. He reiterated that it was not only the Council that caused delay to the project.

Mr. Linda Provost, Principal of Hebron Avenue School, advocated for the children and staff, including custodial staff in the summer, all whom currently face unhealthy conditions due to the heat from lack of air conditioning.

Ms. Jennifer Constanzo of 52 Russet Road said she represented the Hopewell PTO and advocated for the air conditioning echoing that they cannot open doors and windows due to safety concerns, climate change is bringing about more hot days and it's too hot to learn or teach. She noted that Eastbury Café lost ventilation and the children were sent home. She said that there are always things to spend money on but the children, parents and staff choose air conditioning

Ms. Cyndi Wallace of 84 Ridgecrest Road said they all agree it is hot and they need to do it asking them to stop arguing and finger pointing and find a way. She criticized the thought they should wait to know about Gideon Welles until helping the students in the grades K-5 where there are 4, 5 and 6 year olds that can't regulate their body temperature well. She opposed another study saying \$50K represented the cost of a teacher.

Ms. Mary LaChance of 281 Cedar Ridge Drive echoed the sentiments of the previous speakers in favor of air conditioning.

Ms. Ally Sexton of 45 Hardin Lane said her children used to go to Buttonball and were redistricted to Nayaug adding Nayaug is a big beautiful school with air conditioning. She said it isn't fair that the other 5 don't have it and it's not fair that they lose so many days and weeks to the heat which is not conducive to learning.

Mr. Kent Hurlburt, Principal Buttonball Lane, said that air conditioning is a tremendous benefit to education and that extremes in temperature get in the way of learning for the children, and the teachers are equally impacted being exhausted and frustrated. He urged the Council to move it forward.

Chairman Beckett noted the end of the public comment time period saying that it was a challenging issue and while they all support it, it is a matter of the project and how they pay for it.

Motion By: Mrs. Barry

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby extends the public comment period to allow all members of the public in attendance the opportunity to speak.

Disc: Mr. Gullotta said that they didn't have a long agenda and said that if people are willing to come out, he'd like to hear what they have to say. Mr. Finn concurred.

Result: Motion carries {8-0-0}

Ms. Jen Main, Teacher Buttonball Lane, said that teachers do what's best for the kids every day but temperatures 85-103 degrees are not what's best. She said the kids will slump, be still or lay down giving blank stares and academic performance suffers. She said that they can't monitor their own bodies and they have to remind them to drink and end up re-teaching material adding that ideal learning is from 72 to 77 degrees.

Ms. Anabela Xavier, Teacher Buttonball Lane, said that they used to be able to open windows and doors but without that due to security, the schools feel like Bangladesh due to the heat and humidity. She said it is a different environment with unprecedented heat with years and years of studies speaking to learning and temperature. She said that 112 degree temperatures makes people sick and air conditioning is expensive but doing nothing is also a detriment to home values.

Ms. Kristen Sullivan, Teacher Buttonball Lane, said that whatever the temperature outside, it is at least 10 degrees hotter in the classrooms with stagnant, humid air that makes it feel like a rainforest. She talked about the students trying to cope with the temperatures with many feeling sick and asking to go to the nurse. She said all the teachers delay content and the teachers and students deserve better. She asked the Council to come to the schools to feel what it's like and asked them to move forward.

Ms. Kathleen Murphy, Principal Hopewell School, expressed support of air conditioning noting that students that are expected to engage have their heads on the desk and both teachers and the children are sick. She asked that they support air conditioning.

Miss Melina Velendzas, 5th Grader from Hopewell, said she was here in January when the Council was supposed to look into air conditioning but nothing had been approved yet. She said that since then, there was a hot spring and fall where kids have fainted and gotten sick. She said that she has gotten sick and dreads going to school when it's hot. She questioned why they don't close the school for the heat like they do for snow and asked them to get climate control in the schools.

Ms. Sara Caruso of 102 Shelley Lane expressed support of air conditioning in the schools saying that if the meeting wasn't air conditioned, she wouldn't have attended.

Mr. Jason Kornfield of 19 Deerfield Drive said he was surprised to learn of the issue of the lack of air conditioning and that he wouldn't have moved to the town if he had known.

Ms. Amanda Albert of 58 Rolling Hills Drive said she was a teacher and parent and that her child gets headaches with the heat. She asked that they consider air for the café spaces as she witnesses children on stage with sweat dripping of their faces trying to learn instruments.

Ms. Annie Kuhn, Teacher Buttonball Lane, said she lives in Tolland also with a budget crisis. She said that if the Council is sick and tired of hearing about the air conditioning, imagine how the students and teachers feel about living it every warm day. She said that demands on teaching and learning have been growing, safety issues exist now that once didn't and the heat is worse than it once was. She said that it's not equitable with Nayaug having air conditioning when all the youth take the same assessments. She urged the Council to address the air conditioning.

Ms. Becky Pingel of 2 Chase Hollow believed Dr. Bookman can get the project done for \$1.6M and said that the Council Members were elected to represent the residents asking them to get this done. She said that at first, she understood the project was too much but this is reasonable adding the Mayor of New York City committed to put air conditioning in the schools. She noted that every single Principal was present to advocate for air conditioning.

Mr. Michael Litke of 292 Feldspar Ridge said he was a parent and Principal of Naubuc and when it's hot, they all move to the few air conditioned spaces they have available. He noted the Harvard research on test scores and temperature and that 5 days of 80 degrees or higher impacts test scores and they have had 25 days.

Ms. Sue-Yang Chi of 118 Fairway Crossing said that one of her children has special needs and if his classroom got above 80 degrees, he would experience big issues. She continued saying that he got air conditioning but that it wasn't okay for the other kids. She said that the Board of Education knows the costs from experience and while maybe not state of the art, it will work. She asked the Council to support the Board of Education.

Miss Clara Hancock of 262 Bell Street expressed support for air conditioning saying her classroom is one of the hottest. She said she has a hard time learning and focusing on the teacher and her work.

Ms. Megan Abernathy of 59 Pilgard Lane said that her child in the school without air conditioning comes home exhausted due to the heat. She asked the representatives to come together for the youngest residents that can't speak for themselves and that her vote in November will be for who comes to the table to do what's right.

Ms. Jen O'Keefe of 41 Karenlee Road said she was neutral on air conditioning until she went to parent orientation where it was so incredibly hot, she couldn't focus. She said that at 7pm, it was over 90 degrees. She said when she asked her daughter about it, she said that she used to think she was a top reader but she couldn't finish a timed test so it is not only impacting the children's ability to perform but also their confidence in themselves. She said she heard they were talking about moving up the tests so they wouldn't be impacted by the heat but that means the children will have less time to prepare.

Mr. Zeller spoke again noting the town charter requires projects over \$3M to go to referendum and including Gideon Welles, this will exceed \$3M. He said while it may seem like a hurdle, it is designed to protect the taxpayers. He said they shouldn't break up the project and they could go to referendum in April. He said that they shouldn't have to wait at Gideon Welles.

3. Special Reports.

None

4. Old Business.

- (a) Action on proposed \$50,000 transfer for final design and specifications – proposed school air-conditioning – Capital Reserve-Unassigned Fund Balance to Capital Projects (refer to Board of Finance; set public hearing).**

Mr. Johnson reviewed his memo to the Council on the subject dated October 6, 2017, noting that a number of speakers spoke to a study for \$50K when the \$50K proposal is for final design and specifications so they are able to bid the project. He provided the Council the status of the fund balance noting their self-imposed minimum of 12% and that they are currently at 15%. He said that state budget reductions could cause them to have to dip into the fund bringing it below their desired threshold. He said that it does assume \$2.7M is pending for a significant land acquisition as well as potential money back from pending litigation. He said there are only two parcels left at Gateway. He noted that the capital reserve undesignated fund balance is \$1.9M and next year, \$1.95M with their minimum of \$1M plus there are a number of grant funded projects. He emphasized that the preliminary cost estimate is just that, preliminary, and they expect it to come down with the largest variable being installation. He reviewed the scheduling and funding variables with option one having the bidding process in January and February and two, funding the installation and purchase of the units in January to save three to four weeks which came in response to inquiries about how they could expedite the project components.

Vice Chairman Osgood asked if the \$50,000 for design allows them to go to bid to which Mr. Johnson said yes with final approval on October 24. Vice Chairman Osgood noted that should this move forward, they would need the Board of Finance recommendation. Mr. Johnson continued talking about the funding of the installation from the capital reserve fund and general fund as well as capital projects adding that Dr. Bookman had suggested some work from in-house staff.

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby refers to the Board of Finance a proposed \$50,000 appropriation and transfer from the Capital Reserve-Unassigned Fund Balance to Capital Projects-School Air-conditioning, and schedules a public hearing for 8:00 p.m. on

Amendment By: Mr. Gullotta

Seconded By: Mrs. Barry

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the amendment to add \$550,000 for the electrical work to the \$50,000 for design and specifications.

Disc: Mr. Gullotta said this came up at the agenda setting meeting with Chairman Beckett suggesting they do the electrical work now adding he agreed. Mr. Johnson said that the preliminary estimates for electrical are good. He continued noting that the \$2.7M assumes installation on a contractual basis adding that regardless of funding, they won't go to bid until January as they need November and December for design and specification but this would offer a 2-4 week head start. Vice Chairman Osgood asked if it was possible to go to bid without funding in place. Mr. Johnson said historically, funding is in place but they have done it once before with the Riverfront Park, Phase II. Vice Chairman Osgood opposed going to the Board of Finance without a firm project cost. Chairman Beckett says that it was his idea as they are trying to thread the needle to address the concerns of both the Boards of Education and Finance.

Mr. Byar said he wasn't up there to say what the public wants to hear so he'll get votes, he wants to solve the air conditioning issue and be legally and fiscally responsible. He suggested waiting the two weeks to get a funding recommendation from the Board of Finance adding they need to know where the money is coming from. He said he could support this but also wants a full funding recommendation from the Board of Finance. Mr. Finn said he didn't think this was the most prudent way but thinks the Board of Finance could navigate and make a positive recommendation. Mrs. Keefe expressed support confirming that the Board of Finance meets the following Wednesday at 4pm. Vice Chairman Osgood said he would vote against this motion although he is not against air conditioning but it was important how they pursue the project. Mr. Cavanaugh echoed Vice Chairman Osgood's sentiment. Mr. Johnson said that procedurally they would discuss the entire project adding they would have to go to public hearing before recommendation.

Result: Motion carries {6-2-0} with Vice Chairman Osgood and Mr. Cavanaugh opposing.

Mrs. Keefe left the meeting at 9pm.

5. New Business.

(a) Action on proposed donation of open space to Town (refer to Town Plan & Zoning Commission).

Mr. Johnson reviewed his memo to the Council on the subject dated October 6, 2017, noting that the property does not adjoin any town properties but does adjoin wooded private property. He

said to accept the donation, they need to refer this to TPZ. Chairman Beckett supported the referral.

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby refers to the Town Plan & Zoning Commission acquisition of the 5± acre open space parcel at Lot W18E Thompson Street, as shown on the attached page and described in a report by the Town Manager dated October 6, 2017.

Result: Motion carries {7-0-0}

6. Consent Calendar.

- (a) **Action on the application of Horseshoe Lane Associates, LLC for a Change of Zone from Rural Residence to Residence AA Zone, and then a Change of Zone to Planned Area Development – Glastonbury Glen PAD – 18 single family dwellings on 15.532 acres, Assessor's Lot E-3AA Orchard Street and a portion of Assessor's Lot S-54 Hebron Avenue (refer to Town Plan & Zoning Commission; set public hearing).**

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

a. Glastonbury Glen PAD.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council (Zoning Authority) hereby refers the application of Horseshoe Lane Associates, LLC for a Change of Zone from Rural Residence to Residence AA Zone, and then a Change of Zone to Planned Area Development – Glastonbury Glen PAD, Assessor's Lot E-3AA Orchard Street and a portion of Assessor's Lot S-54 Hebron Avenue, to the Town Plan & Zoning Commission for a report and recommendation under CGS Section 8-24, and schedules a public hearing for 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury.

Result: Motion carries {8-0-0}

7. Town Manager's Report.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his report to the Council dated October 6, 2017, noting the opening of the New London Turnpike and Hebron Avenue roundabout and the explanatory text for the referendum. Mr. Finn asked for a list of attendees at the roundabout meeting saying that the construction timeline was not what they had thought and he had been contacted by area business owners. He said that communication has to be the highest priority emphasizing it wasn't sufficient to put information on a website but instead, should be proactive in delivering the good news and the bad. He praised the completed roundabout.

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby acknowledges receipt of the Town Manager's quarterly expense report from July 1 to September 30, 2017.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {7-0-0}

Chairman Beckett said they did a great job on the roundabout and while it took longer than expected, hopefully, it was done right. He said signs were still an issue in East Glastonbury. Mr. Johnson said he was working on the signs and may enlist the help of the reconstituted agricultural group to help with the seasonal signs. Mr. Gullotta said that he heard from the public that they are having trouble downloading committee meetings because the town uses JAVA and asked Mr. Johnson to look into it. Mr. Cavanaugh asked Mr. Johnson to send praise to Dan Pennington for the roundabout. Mrs. Barry echoed compliments on the roundabout and praised the Police Department for their support as well. Chairman Beckett said he watched a tractor trailer negotiate the roundabout successfully without slowing down.

8. Committee Reports.

(a) Chairman's Report.

9. Communications.

None

10. Minutes

(a) Minutes of September 26, 2017 Council Meeting.

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the minutes as submitted for the regular meeting held September 26, 2017.

Result: Motion passes unanimously. (7-0-0)

11. Appointments and Resignations.

None

12. Executive Session.

Not held

13. Adjournment

Motion By: Vice Chairman Osgood

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their regular meeting of October 10, 2017, at 9:10 pm.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {7-0-0}.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Meanix Miller

Kimberly Meanix Miller
Recording Clerk

Stewart Beckett, III
Chairman